**Appointment of Government Directors in Skipper Construction Company Limited**

*175. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Directors have been appointed on the Board of Skipped Construction Company Limited. New Delhi as desired by the Company Law Board;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY): (a) to (c) The Company Law Board had ordered, under sub-section (1) of Section 408 of the Companies Act, appointment of 3 persons for a period of three years on the Board of Skipper Construction Company struction Company Private Limted. The operation of the said order has been stayed by the Delhi High Court on a writ petition filed by the Company. As such, it has not been possible for the Central Government to act upon that order.

**इंडियन टी एसोसिएशन द्वारा चाय का आयात किये जाने का विरोध**

@176. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
**श्री रणजीत सिंह :**

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान इकोनॉमिक टाइम्स में "एम०एन० सीजन फेवर टी इम्पोर्ट्स ऑन टम्पोरेरी बेसिस टु हाइक एक्स्पोर्ट्स" शीर्षक के छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार देश में चाय का आयात करने पर सहमत हो गई है ;

(ग) यदि हां तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इंडियन टी एसोसिएशन ने चाय का आयात किये जाने का विरोध किया है और यदि हां तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्)** : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) तथा (ग) सरकार की नीति यह है कि मूल्यवर्धन करके पुनर्निर्यात हेतु चाय के आयात की अनुमति दी जाए । घरेलू खपत के लिए चाय के आयात की अनुमति नहीं है ।

(घ) दि इण्डियन टी एसोसिएशन ने भारत में चाय आयात की बात का विरोध किया है । एसोसिएशन के अनुसार चाय आयात के फलस्वरूप भारतीय चाय उद्योग पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा क्योंकि भारत चाय का एक परम्परागत निर्यातक है ।

**Losses to Electricity Corporations and Undertakings due to theft, of power**

*177. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether theft of power is considered to be one of the major factors contributing to heavy losses being incurred by Electricity Corporations and Undertakings;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to prevent this theft, effectively; and

(c) what is the estimated percentage of power loss by way of thefts and to what extent power theft is proposed to be curbed by the end of the current plan period?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES

(SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The transmission and distribution (T & D) losses including theft of electricity in the country have been ranging between 21% to 23%. This high incidence of T&D losses is one of the factors contributing to heavy losses being incurred by various State Electrcity Boards|Electricity Departments (SEBs/EDs). In order to reduce the T&D losses including theft of energy, various technical and administartive measures have been taken. These include:—

(i) conuducting energy audit by SEBs|EDs to identify system elements responsible for excessive losses;

(ii) formulation of system improvement schemes for strengthening T&D system both in rural and urban areas;

(iii) installation of capacitors, introduction of energy audit in the power systems of SEBs|EDs;

(iv) theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence; and

(v) introduction of an incentive scheme for reducing T&D losses.

Effective implementation of these measures by the SEBs|EDs would help in reducing the losses during the current plan period.

**Koel Karo Hydro-Electrical, Project**

*178. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Koel Karo Hydro-Electric Project has been cleared by Government as a Central Project in Bihar;

(b) if so, what is its cost as also the date of its commencement and completion;

(c) which agency would be entrusted with its construction and whether any Indian or foreign firm is also involved in it; and

(d) if so, what are the terms and conditions decided upon for involvement of such a firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) The Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1338.81 crores at March, 1991 price level. The Project will be completed in 8 years from November, 1991 i.e. by November, 1999. The Koel Karo H.E. Project is being executed in the Central Sector by the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation. Since it is being executed indigenously, no foreign firm is involved in its construction.

**Trafficking in Chemical Drugs**

*179. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Indian Express of the 5th November, 1991 captioned 'Trafficking of Chemical drugs on the rise'; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to check the menace which also generates black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item refers to Methadon as synonymous with Methaqualone and Mandrax. This is not so. While Methaqualone in combination with an anti-histamine is marketed as Mandrax, Methadon is totally different in composition and effect. Further, smuggling of Methadon has not been noticed so far. As far as Methaqualone is concerned, the enforcement agencies of the Central and State Governments have launched a multi-pronged attack to prevent the smuggling of this chemical drug. As would be seen